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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Civilization and climate. By Ellsworth Huntington. (New Haven: Yale university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1915. 333 p. \$2.50 net)

The problem which Mr. Huntington has set out to solve lies in the fact that upon some five percent of the land of the earth is to be found twenty-five percent of the total population and a striking preponderance of all the energy. Why this is true is the question to which he has devoted many years of late, and the book before us contains his tentative answer, moderately and good-humoredly, though confidently stated.

Any acceptable solution of the problem, he points out, must account not only for the balance of human energy as it lies distributed today, but for the balance of past historic times. It must recognize and clarify the fact that since the dawn of history the regions of concentrated population and strength have shifted, though their proportion to the rest of the world and of mankind have not greatly altered. Egypt and Babylon, Peru and Yucatan show today the archaeological survivals of civilizations gone for good. Any sound explanation must be true for all time, and must embody a general law of life.

The factors commonly admitted in race development, and asserted by Mr. Huntington, are those of race, inherited civilization and physical environment. His specific contribution, while admitting fully the potent influence of the first two factors, is embraced in an analysis of the third, and a development of one of its constituent elements. To climate he attributes many of the determining influences upon civilization; and to offset the charge that past civilizations have nevertheless thriven in climates now inhospitable or deadly, he boldly asserts that climate has changed repeatedly even within the period of recorded history, and that in its shiftings may be found important causes for the rise and fall of nations.

The evidence upon this point, which he marshals and displays in well-conceived graphs, consists of materials that show the climatic conditions of highest energy, and the shifting of climate. His studies of energy are based on diverse units, — the wages of cigar makers and other factory hands, the grades of schoolboys' recitations, gains in weight of tubercular patients in sanatoria, etc., all of which intimate a general truth that energy varies with weather and climate, that its curve has

two peaks in autumn and late spring, respectively, and two dips in the extremes of summer and winter. Upon these curves he formulates his rule that energy is highest in moderate climates of considerable daily and seasonal variation, and that western Europe and eastern United States are specially favored because of these conditions at the present time.

To prove that climate has changed he uses his familiar data on the big trees of California, the lake beaches of the Caspian, the alternating beaches and flood plains of the Sierra Nevada lakes, and the chemical tests based upon the capacity of "dead" seas to hold in solution sodium and chlorine. He succeeds in convincing himself that the shifting of climate can be made to explain the environment in which energetic races could have developed regions like Egypt and Yucatan, and that decline in rainfall has influenced their fall. His hypothesis attracts attention and commands serious consideration, but conclusive proof must await the accumulation of more data upon labor and climate, and more facts upon the history of the ancient world. Race and civilization remain as unquestioned factors; it is the third element, climate, that he forces us to reconsider.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON

America and the new world-state. A plea for American leadership in international organization. By Norman Angell. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1915. 305 p. \$1.25 net)

In this work the author tells us he is making an argument for American leadership in the organizing of a world state for permanent peace. After dealing with America's policy of separation which Washington first formulated in 1793, he shows that at the present time our isolation is a thing of the past. Our previous diplomatic and political severance from old world complications has given us certain advantages which should be utilized in developing America's leadership in the organization of a new system for maintaining the present standards for the entire civilized world. But aside from her past separation from European wars and alliances, America has been gaining in wealth and population till she has reached a point where her influence may easily be the determining factor in the future diplomacy. In her previous aloofness from former disputes and wars and from her inherent strength, the author is inclined to think that America is in a position to urge a new world organization having for its purpose the preservation of law and order and the promotion of amity and coöperation among all nations.

In the second part of the work Angell presents a very clear and forceful statement of what constitutes the danger of militarism, whether